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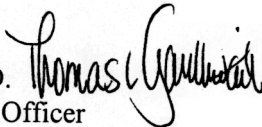
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October 11, 2002

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D. 
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON THE NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

On June 26, 2002, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky allocating an additional \$400,000 in CalWORKS Performance Incentives for FY 2002-03 for the Nurse Family Partnership (NFP), for a total of \$1.3 million. The Board also instructed DPSS, the CAO, the New Directions Task Force, and the Community Planning Group to prioritize funding for this program when the LTFSS funding plan is reviewed in January 2003, and that no additional families be enrolled in the program until alternate funding is identified.

This is the second report on the implementation of this motion. Since our last report on July 31, 2002, the following actions have taken place:

The Department ceased enrollment of new clients under this funding stream, but continues to provide services to the 268 LTFSS families previously enrolled in the program with 10.5 LTFSS-funded Public Health Nurses. The \$1.3 million allocation will fund these nurses through January 2003, but additional funds will be needed to maintain the program through June 2003. Because families are eligible for the program until the child is 24 months, funding will be needed after June 30 for many of these families to complete the program.

The Department continues to explore alternate strategies to fund program services by:

Collaborating with Dr. David Olds to seek federal and state support to establish a sustainable funding source.

Examining whether greater federal Medicaid matching funds could be gained through Targeted Case Management (TCM) than currently received through the Maternal Child Health (MCH) State allocation. It is estimated the NFP would be able to receive an approximately 7-10 percent greater match by using TCM versus MCH for specific program services. NFP program staff conducted a trial time study during the month of September 2002, in order to compare TCM to MCH reimbursement methodologies, and to determine which would yield the best match. We will continue to explore this possibility.

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Exploring the possibility of additional funding from First 5 LA (Proposition 10).

We will continue to seek alternate funding sources, and I will provide you with another update by December 31, 2002. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

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c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Director of Public Social Services
New Directions Task Force
Community Planning Group